

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Information on Coal Mining (*sources of coal, manpower, production, wages, hours, reserves, prices, sources & reserves of iron ore; coal gasification*)

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a report containing information  
on coal and non-ferrous mining,  
principally in the Ostrava area.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

# INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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Sept 1957

COAL DEPOSITS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

General Data:

Czechoslovakia is rich in fuel, mostly coal which is anthracite and lignite. Heavy industrial needs of the nation are supplied, and the surplus is exported.

Hydrogenation of coal and cokery supply many chemical and chemical products factories.

The great problem of the Czechoslovak coal mines is the constant shortage of manpower. It is made up by military labor units and by "dobrovolne brigade" (volunteer brigades), who are not volunteers at all. In fact the volunteer brigades are the most used tool of "collective and coercive correction" employed by the Czechoslovak regime. In one way or another, all the coal mines are thus constantly resupplied with manpower, even though it is heterogeneous, negligent and recalcitrant. Skilled workmen are on the other hand influenced to remain by offers of good salaries which are higher than those for any other <sup>workers</sup> ~~occupational~~ class.

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## COAL FIELDS

The major coal fields or basins being worked are the following:

MORAVSKA OSTRAVA KARVINA (59/60 -29/F)

KLADNO (59/60 - 9/d)

PLZEN (59/60 - 6/f)

TRUTNOV (59/60 - 18/C) ZACLER (59/60 - 18/C)

ROSIC~~ZE~~ OSLAVANI (BRNO 59/60 - 20/h)

The very extensive MOST (59/60 - 7/C), which is however a lignite mine.

Total Production

The total anthracite production is an average of 30 million tons annually, distributed as follows:

OSTRAVA KARVIN,	65,000 to 68,000 tons daily		
KLADNO	about 10,000	"	"
PLZEN	5,000 to 6,000	"	"
TRUTNOV-ZACLER	6,000 to 8,000	"	"

These daily figures should be multiplied by 320 days, since Sunday is sometimes a workday.

The best grade of coal is that mined in MORAVA OSTRAVA Field; it is good for metallurgical coke which develops an average 7,000 calories, and sometimes up to 8,000.

Sept 1957 COAL FIELD of

59/60  
MORAVSKA OSTRAVA  
29/F

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**General Data:**

The MORAVA OSTRAVA Coal Field is by far the most important, most developed, and most yielding of the fields mentioned. It is a separate entity from the other fields and mines; the director general of the field or basin is directly subordinate to the Ministry of Mines and ~~is~~ almost *can be* ~~ranked~~ ranked ~~as~~ a vice minister. The agency which rules the exploitation of the basin is designated:

Z.O.K.D. or ZEDITIELSTVI OSTRAVSKO KARVINSKE DOLI, meaning Directorate of OSTRAVA-KARVINA Mines.

**Offices:**

in "namestie Stalina" (Stalin Square) of MORAVA OSTRAVA.

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**Director General:**

Arnost KARPETA, 

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**Technical Manager:**

Bretislav TROJAN. 

**Total Production of This Field**

Production ranges from 65,000 to 67,000 tons in 24 hours, amounting to an annual total of 20 to 22 million tons. The production plan foresees a daily output of 68,000 tons, a quantity ~~with~~ which was not always attained in 1956.

From January to May 1957 production was raised to the specification in the plan, that is to 68,000 tons a day.

Workhours extend up to 12 hours daily, and every other Sunday, with no other holidays granted. This is a pace which can prejudice the output in the long run because it is too high.

The Moravska Ostrava edition of Rude Pravo often reports production data on this coal field.

#### Reserves

At the rate of 70,000 tons a day, there are reserves to last 400 years.

#### Mines in This Field

Twenty-five mines subdivided into four sectors:

- 1) KARVINA sector (59/60 - 30/F)
- 2) ORLOVA " (59/60 - 30/F)
- 3) MORAVSKA-OSTRAVA (59/60) north
- 4) " " (59/60) south.

Of the 25 foregoing mines

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#### 1) KARVINA Sector

DUL 1 Maj

- " Mir
- " Klement Gottwald
- " Armada CSR
- " Doubrava.

#### 2) ORLOVA Sector

Dul Zapotockj

- " Fucik
- " Pionir
- " Sofija

3) MORAVSKA OSTRAVA NORTH Sector

Dul Sverma

Dul Trojce

and others.

4) MORAVSKA OSTRAVA ~~MORAVSKA~~ SOUTH Sector

Dul Zarubek

Dul Ostravska Hlubina

and others.

In the KARVINA Sector, preparations are in progress to open two new mines in the SUHA STONAVA and STONAVA VIKOT localities. It is planned to have these mines in full operation by 1962. For the time being, the two mines are designated by their geographical names.

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DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF THE MINES LISTED



1) KARVINA Sector

DUL " 1 Maj "

KARVINA

One May Mine

General Data:

This is the former BARBORA Mine. It is one of the largest in the field.

Personnel:

Director is Emil KARPETA, brother of the director general of all the mines in the field.

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Chief Engineer: Viktor KOLACEK.

Engineers: 13 mining engineers; 2 mechanical engineers.

Oldrich MRAZEK

Valdimir FAJKUS

Josef PILLER

Jiri BIEGON

Antonin KUCA

Jozef KEMPNI

Boleslav SIKORA

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Oldrich HECKO (former worker)

Boleslav GAS (former worker)

Jozef KARPETA (former worker), brother of the two directors mentioned above.

the last three listed were graduated after a rapid 3-year course, as done in the early years of the CZECHOSLOVAK Communist government. Their education, practice, and experience are not superior to those of a good skilled worker. They are presently employed in secondary work because of their inferior training.

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#### Workers:

About 3,600 on three consecutive shifts of 8 hours each, which are almost always stretched into 12 hours.

#### Production:

5,900 to 6,000 tons every 24 hours. The production plan for this mine is 5,800 tons daily, but it is always exceeded. Despite this, the mine operates on alternate Sundays to make up for those mines which fall short of the goal.

DUL MIR

KARVINA

"Peace" Mine.

General Data:

Chief Engineer: SLAVKOVSKI

Workers:

About 1,000; on three shifts.

Production:

About 2,500 tons daily.

DUL "KLEMENT GOTTWALD"

KARVINA

Mine named "Klement Gottwald".

Workers:

About 2,500; on three shifts.

Production:

About 4,200 tons in 24 hours.

DUL "ARMADA CSR"

KARVINA

"Czechoslovak Army" Mine.

General Data:

This is a complex of four mines bearing the following numbers

0 - the former BENESKA Mine

1 - " " HLUBINA "

2 - " " FRANCISKA "

3 - " " .....

There is a cokery and chemical plant on the complex, which is the most important in the field or basin.



Director General:

Engineer Alojs KUCHAR

Chief Engineer:

RIEB

Production:

8,300 tons daily.

DUL "DOUBRAVA"

DOUBRAVA (KARVINA)

"Doubrava" Mine.

It takes its name from the village in which it is situated.

Production:

A little less than 4,000 tons a day, but it will shortly exceed  
4,000 tons.

## 2) ORLOVA Sector

DUL "ZAPATOCKI"

ORLOVA

ZAPOTOCKI Mine.

No data available.

DUL "FUCIK"

ORLOVA

Fucik Mine.

This is a large mine; it has the same potential as the "1 May"  
or 5,500 to 6,000 tons daily.

DUL "PIONIR"

ORLOVA

Pionieri Mine. No data are available.

3) MORAVSKA - OSTRAVA NORTH Sector

DUL "SVERMA"

MORAVSKA OSTRAVA  
North

Sverma Mine.

This is believed to be the former JOHANKA. It includes the coal mine and cokery. No further data are available.

DUL "TROJCE"

MORAVSKA OSTRAVA  
North

4) MORAVSKA OSTRAVA SOUTH Sector

DUL "ZARUBEK"

MORAVSKA OSTRAVA  
South

There are no data.

DUL "OSTRAVSKA HLUBINA"

OSTRAVSKA HLUBINA

This takes its name from the village near which it is situated.

There are no data.

EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY

Czechoslovak mine equipment is well maintained, both for greater efficiency and for the safety of the personnel using it. Accidents are caused by undue speed which willfully neglects safety. The press does not mention accidents except very serious ones, which are briefly treated to keep from alarming the manpower.

### MACHINERY

Constantly overhauled. The Kombain is imported from the USSR,

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Mining machinery is not manufactured in Czechoslovakia because of the high cost of such non-mass manufacture.

### CLASSIFICATION OF COAL MINED IN THIS BASIN

The coal first goes to the washing plant. In the examples of the "1 May" and "Peace" mines, it goes to the U.Z.K. or Ustredni Zavod Karvina, the Karvina Central Factory. It is then sent to the Huglobist Company, which selects coal in the entire basin. This company has its home office in MORAVSKA OSTRAVA and a branch in PRAGUE.

### DESTINATION and ALLIED INDUSTRY

The coal mined in this basin supplies the chemical industries, coal hydrogenation plants and cokeries in the area, which in turn supply various subsidiary industries. The principal complexes

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are:  
ZAVOD KAROLINA of MORAVSKA OSTRAVA

This is an old factory which has kept its name. It is a coking plant with hydrogenation plant for the extraction of various chemical components from the coal.

of  
ZAVOD LAZI/ORLOVA

This is a coking plant.

ZAVOD ARMADA CSR (formerly BENESKA) in KARVINA

A coking plant with facilities for chemical exploitation of the coal, and the four mines attached. The coal is then shipped to various Czechoslovak complexes and also exported to EAST GERMANY and RUMANIA.

COSTS AND PRICES

It has been figured that the cost of the coal mined in MORAVA  
OSTRAVA Basin ranges from 109 to 120 crowns a ton.

The sale price has three values:

for the Socialistiko or State factories;

for export;

for private heating.  Miners 50X1-HUM  
in this area purchase it for 600 crowns a ton.

the price of sale to the USSR is somewhat cheap. 50X1-HUM

Sept 1957 OTHER BASINS

KLADNO (anthracite)

PLZEN "

ZACLER "

ROSICZE OSLAVANI (anthracite)

MOST (lignite).

the KLADNO Basin is old; 50X1-HUM

the PLZEN is old and has large reserves; the ZACLER Basin was developed  
after the war and is expanding; the ROSICZE OSLAVANI is old and its  
reserves are limited to another 30 years of mining at the present rate.

Sept 1957 MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION ON THE COAL MINES

Manpower:

In short supply because work may be found in industry without  
risking the danger, inconvenience, and sweat of the mines. Agitators  
attempt to recruit miners in the villages but they are not very  
successful.

//

Recourse is had to the military labor battalions, the so-called P.T.P. or POMOCNI TEHNICKI PRAPORT, Auxiliary Technical Battalion. These have theoretically been abolished, but they continue to operate. In spite of all this, the production plans are not fulfilled, and there is further recourse to the "Brigades of Volunteer Labor" or DOBROVOLNE BRIGADE.

These are made up of workers from factories which use coal and are from time to time forced to supply a number of workers for the mines, in proportion to their coal burning. Careless workers and those who grumble about the government are sent to the mines. This measure is standard and the most widespread "corrective punishment" now used in Czechoslovakia. The tour of duty is for six months. The pay of the brigade and military labor workers is equal to that for other workers in the mines.

#### Salaries and wages in the mines:

These are generally higher than for other occupational categories. In the MORAVSKA OSTRAVA Basin, salaries are even higher than in any mine in the Republic; they were determined by a special act of the government issued in 1953: DOKUMENT STRANI <sup>here</sup> AVLADI.

The average monthly pay of a miner<sup>here</sup> is 2,200 to 2,300 crowns, as compared to 1,600 to 1,900 crowns paid in other mines. Foreman receive up to 4,000 crowns a month, with an average of 1,200 to 1,400 crowns more than their workmen.

An engineer has a base salary of 3,500 crowns a month.

Add to this the bonus for exceeding the standard, in proportion to

how much coal is extra.

The "1 May" Mine has constantly exceeded the standard set by the 1956 Plan.

The bonus prize ranges from 50 to 150 percent of the salary and this can be awarded 3 or 4 times in one year. As always happens under Communist rule, there is partiality even in making these awards: the 150 percent is given to the director, managers, and officials, whereas the real producers, engineers, technicians, and miners receive from 50 to 100 percent.

Two meals and breakfast at the mess cost 12 crowns a month. Withholdings are high; [ ] about 1,000 crowns a month because [ ] single; those with three or more children are exempt from tax.

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On 1 June 1957 work standards were raised 2.5 percent, thus reducing the amount of bonus awards for exceeding the standard.

Strikes and demonstrations against the government:  
tunnel

None. In 1953 the workers filled one car out of 50 to protest against the change in money, which was done at a ratio of 1 to 50.

d) FERROUS MINERAL MINES

Sept 1957 DOL BANJA RUDNJANY

RUDNJANY

Rudnjany ~~Coal~~ Mine [sic]

General Data:

This is an old mining complex for iron ore and the most important in Czechoslovakia. It supplies 45 to 50 percent of all the iron ore extracted in the country. The TRINEC and VITKOVICE Steel Mills use it.

Sept 1957 DOL BANJA of ZELZNIK (SLOVAKIA)

Coal Mine.

" " DOL LUCIA BANJA of 59/60  
GEINICA  
42/1

" " DOL BANJA ROZNJAVA of 59/60  
ROZNAVA  
40/J

These three are old mines still in operation.

Sept 1957 New Ferrous Mineral Mines

A new ferrous mineral mine was opened after the war at an undetermined locality ~~near~~ in the area lying between PLZEN and PRAGUE.

Sept 1957 Exploitation of rich deposits of iron ore ~~in the area of the~~  
the  
the ~~deposits~~ will soon begin in JESENICKI. ~~Mountain~~ Hills.

Deposits of iron ore in the hills.....RUDO HORY  
(SLOVAKIA)

#### General Data:

These ferrous deposits in this area have been almost exhausted.  
Of the mines in the villages of SMOLNIK, SMOLNICK<sup>A</sup> HUTA, and MARIJA  
HUTA, only SMOLNIK is still operating and at a small rate of production.

h) MISCELLANEOUS

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Sept 1957 NEW "DEGASSING" METHOD IN THE MINES

A system of limited absorption of mine gases invented by Dr Paul SCHULTZ, a German, is in use.

However, a new system is being considered for the USSR and other Orbit countries, which would:  
impound almost all mine gases;  
exploit their energetic power.

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In October 1956, probably <sup>at</sup> Soviet suggestion, a technical commission of mining engineers was established within the Directorate General of the MORAVSKA OSTRAVA Basin to absorb and exploit gases. It was headed by engineer Bretislav TROJAN, technical director general of the basin. The project was named ODPLEŇOVANJE JHOLNIK SLOJOV, or in the short title: DEGAZACIJA.

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